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# ASK EPA!!

Questions and Answers about  
Asbestos and EPA's Investigation

## Q: How does EPA choose which homes to cleanup?

**A:** EPA's goal for property selection is a system where groups of homes in specific geographic areas are cleaned up at around the same time. Cleanup would then shift to the next group of homes. This is slightly different from what currently happens.

Currently, cleanup design managers have made selections in Spring/Summer 2003 for Spring/Summer 2004 work. After a preliminary design is done and a workplan drafted, a field team leader does a pre-construction field review of the plan with the home owner. This is done about three months before the cleanup. This workplan review and the information gathered at the property is strictly related to cleanup activities.

The database search for this season's cleanup properties was based on the type of cleanup, the proximity of one cleanup to another and the general location of the property.

1) Type of cleanup – The database tells schedulers whether the cleanup will be small or large, outdoor only, indoor only, or both outdoor and indoor and whether there are other unique characteristics complicating the cleanup. These factors influence what time of year is suitable for starting cleanup.

2) Proximity – The database is searched for whether there are two or more properties in close proximity. Cleanup of properties in close proximity is more efficient affording some cost savings with shared resources and coordinated activities. This is why EPA continues to work toward a system where homes are cleaned up in groups of homes in the same part of town. Difficulties EPA has encountered in cleaning residential properties in groups include residents' vacations, holidays, and special needs requests.

3) Location – EPA has focused on properties within the Libby city limits and the database allows the design manager to choose those properties. The search is not dependent on who owns the property or its specific use.

This is the current approach. There may be exceptions based on unique circumstances. EPA is still working on a reliable system to be able to tell property owners approximately when the cleanup will occur on their properties.

For more information call toll free:

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